

BENTON CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL
Benton, Illinois 62812
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 14, 2023

The Board of Education of the Benton Consolidated High School District #103 met in Regular Session on Thursday, November 14, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. in the District Board Room. President, Mark Minor called the meeting to order.

Board members present: Mark Minor, President; Shane Cockrum, Vice President; Marci Glover, Secretary; Jay Copple; Jim Giacone; Robin LaBuwi; and Stacia Sloan.

Others present: Benjamin Johnson, Superintendent; Sean Docherty, Principal; Ron Giacone, Board Attorney; Ronda Suver, Recording Secretary; Kenise Head, Recording Secretary Trainee; Ryan Miller, Assistant Principal/AD; Cole Buchanan, Student Council Representative; and the BCHS Boys Cross Country Team.

4. RECOGNITION OF BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

5.1 Appointment/Compensation/Discipline/Performance of Personnel

5.2 Student Disciplinary Case

Robin LaBuwi made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Appointment, Compensation, Discipline, and Performance of Personnel and a Student Disciplinary Case. Shane Cockrum seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

The Board; Benjamin Johnson, Superintendent; Ron Giacone, Board Attorney; Ronda Suver, Recording Secretary; and Kenise Head, Recording Secretary Trainee entered into an Executive Session in the Executive Board Room at 5:40 P.M.

Open Session - The Board reconvened in an Open Session at 7:05 P.M. Mark Minor, President called the roll. Answering present: Shane Cockrum – yes, Jay Copple – yes, Jim Giacone – yes, Robin LaBuwi – yes, Stacia Sloan – yes, Mark Minor – yes, and Marci Glover – yes.

Others present: Benjamin Johnson, Superintendent; Sean Docherty, Principal; Ron Giacone, Board Attorney; Ronda Suver, Recording Secretary; Kenise Head, Recording Secretary Trainee; Ryan Miller, Assistant Principal/AD; and a parent.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Approve Minutes: Regular Board Meeting Minutes, October 19, 2023

Executive Board Meeting Minutes, October 19, 2023

6.2 Approve Financial Report (October 2023)

6.3 Approve Payment of Bills (October 2023)

6.4 Approve Madrigals Set Crew on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

6.5 Approve Survivor Empowerment Center Cooperative Networking Agreement (ENCL A)

Shane Cockrum made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, members voted as follows: Jim Giacone – yes, Marci Glover – yes, Jay Copple – yes, Stacia Sloan – yes, Robin LaBuwi – yes, Mark Minor – yes, and Shane Cockrum - yes. Motion Carried. A copy of Enclosure A has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS

Mr. Johnson commented on the following:

- School Report Card Final Rating “Commendable”
- Project Update
- Kudos to Cole Buchanan as he applied and interviewed for the prestigious United States Youth Senate Program & William Randolph Hearst Foundation Scholarship.
- Graduation set for May 11, 2024

Written reports from Principal Docherty and Assistant Principal/AD Miller were given.

8. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Possible Student Disciplinary Action Robin LaBuwi made a motion to approve the Resolution expelling student #103007564 commencing November 15, 2023 and ending November 15, 2025. Jim Giacone seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried. A copy of this Resolution has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

10.2 Assignment of Personnel Shane Cockrum made a motion to approve the leave requests from Lacey Hagerman and Jennie Gibbs as presented. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Robin LaBuwi made a motion to reclassify Catlin Freehill as a volunteer assistant girls’ track coach for the 2023-24 school year. Jim Giacone seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Stacia Sloan made a motion to accept the resignation from Christy Ritchason as the head volleyball coach. Jim Giacone seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Giacone made a motion to accept the resignation from Beth Buntin as the assistant volleyball coach. Shane Cockrum seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Robin LaBuwi made a motion to approve Hunter Rechsteiner as a volunteer speech coach for the 2023-24 school year. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

10.3 Review/Approve Posting of Open Positions Stacia Sloan made a motion to authorized the posting of the following positions for the 2024-25 school year: social studies teacher, assistant girls track coach, head volleyball coach and assistant volleyball coach. Jim Giacone seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

10.4 Review/Accept Annual Financial Report Robin LaBuwi made a motion to accept the FY23 annual financial report as presented. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried

10.5 Set/Approve Tax Hearing Date and Adopt Tentative Levies Robin LaBuwi made a motion to approve the Resolution Adopting Proposed Aggregate Tax Levy for the Year 2023 and set the hearing for December 18, 2023 at 5:15 P.M. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried. A copy of this Resolution has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

10.6 Review/Approve School Maintenance Project Grant Application Shane Cockrum made a motion to approve the school maintenance project grant as presented. Jim Giacone seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

10.7 Approve Specifications and Provide Authorization to Give Notice of Invitation to Let Bids for Acoustic and Public Address Upgrades in Rich Herrin Gymnasium

10.8 Review/Approve Surplus Property as Presented Robin LaBuwi made a motion to approve the surplus property as presented. Shane Cockrum seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

10.9 Review/Approve Amended 2023-24 School Calendar Stacia Sloan made a motion to approve the amended 2023-24 school calendar as presented. Jay Copple seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried. A copy of this calendar has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

11. BOARD OF EDUCATION REMARKS

Robin LaBuwi questioned the current interest rate on district funds.

Shane Cockrum notified the board of the Benton Fire Department's cadette program.

Mark Minor commented on the Veteran's Day ceremony.

Marci Glover commented that she would like storage to be considered as construction issues arise.

12. ADJOURNMENT Stacia Sloan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 P.M. Marci Glover seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.

BOARD PRESIDENT

BOARD SECRETARY